

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kerry White, on March 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)  
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Virginia Court (D)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Mark Noland (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 587, 3/14/2017; HB 584, 3/14/2017; HB 593, 3/14/2017

**HEARING ON HB 587**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:01 Rep. Ray Shaw (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 587, Provide for certified prescribed burning.

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a01\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:13 Rep. Fleming joined the meeting

00:03:58 Ted Dodge, Watershed Restoration Coalition (WRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a03\)](#)

00:07:26 Richard Grady, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a04\)](#)

00:09:29 Rebecca Ramsey, Ruby Valley Conservation District (RVCD); Ruby Watershed Council (RWC)

00:10:30 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

00:13:17 Fred Staedler, Watershed Restoration Coalition (WRC)

00:15:14 David Stout, Ruby Valley Conservation District (RVCD)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:15:55 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

00:17:35 Mike Christianson, Montana Forest Owners Association (MFOA)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a05\)](#)

00:21:32 Jody Christianson, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a06\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:22:36 Rep. Curdy

00:23:13 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:24:53 Rep. Flynn

00:27:19 Rep. Shaw

00:27:59 Ted Dodge, WRC

00:30:39 Rep. Z. Brown

00:31:23 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:33:15 Rep. Flynn

00:34:40 Rep. Shaw

00:34:52 Rep. Flynn

00:35:13 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:36:38 Rep. Flynn

00:37:31 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:38:21 Rep. Windy Boy

00:40:44 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:41:05 Rep. Curdy

00:41:38 Bob Harrington, DNRC  
 00:41:50 Rep. Manzella  
 00:42:48 Bob Harrington, DNRC  
 00:43:03 Rep. Z. Brown  
 00:43:28 Rep. Shaw  
 00:43:53 Rep. Flynn  
 00:44:43 Bob Harrington, DNRC  
 00:45:13 Chair White  
 00:45:18 Rep. B. Brown joined the meeting  
 00:46:58 Bob Harrington, DNRC  
 00:48:09 Chair White  
 00:48:18 Rep. Shaw  
 00:48:33 Rep. Court  
 00:49:25 Bob Harrington, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a07\)](#)

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:50:21 Rep. Shaw

**HEARING ON HB 593**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:54:25 Rep. Nate McConnell (D), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 593, Revise metal mining laws.

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a08\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:00:45 David Chambers, Center for Science in Public Participation (CSP<sup>2</sup>)

01:06:44 Bonnie Gestring, Earthworks

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a09\)](#)

01:14:50 Bruce Farling, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a11\)](#)

01:18:25 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
 01:20:59 Dan Short, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)  
 01:23:59 Diane Bristol, Simms Fishing Products  
 01:25:54 Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)  
 01:26:49 Brian Neilsen, Self  
 01:28:47 Lezlie Pearce-Hopper, Self  
 01:30:57 Jake Wells, Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures (YDFA)  
 01:34:44 Scott Bosse, American Rivers  
 01:36:49 Jeff Barber, Clark Fork Coalition (CFC)  
 01:37:22 Neal Ullmen, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)  
 01:40:01 Harry Murphy, Self  
 01:42:35 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon  
 01:46:00 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)  
 01:46:18 Alec Underwood, Self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:47:41 John Beaudry, Stillwater Mining Company (SMC)

**EXHIBIT(nah57a12)**

01:55:11 Daniel Banghart, Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM)

01:59:11 Charles Buus, Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM)

02:04:00 Mike McGivern, Montana Resources

02:05:18 Mark Thompson, Montana Resources

02:10:58 Robin McCulloch, Otter Creek Consulting

02:20:14 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

**EXHIBIT(nah57a13)**

**EXHIBIT(nah57a14)**

**EXHIBIT(nah57a15)**

02:33:11 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

02:35:36 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

02:37:29 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Informational Testimony:** Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:39:31 Rep. Gunderson

02:39:48 Robin McCulloch, Otter Creek Consulting

02:41:13 Rep. Gunderson

02:41:20 Bonnie Gestring, Earthworks

02:41:49 Rep. Abbott

02:42:29 Bonnie Gestring, Earthworks

02:43:31 Rep. Abbott

02:43:43 Rep. McConnell

02:44:20 Rep. Abbott

02:44:41 Rep. McConnell

02:45:07 Rep. Flynn

02:46:31 Tammy Johnson, MMA

02:47:59 Rep. Flynn

02:48:44 Robin McCulloch, Otter Creek Consulting

02:51:29 Rep. Court

02:52:50 David Chambers, CSP<sup>2</sup>

02:52:58 Rep. Galt

02:55:18 Rep. McConnell

02:55:38 Rep. Court

02:55:53 Bonnie Gestring, Earthworks

02:56:38 Rep. Court

02:56:58 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

02:57:35 Charles Buus, (GSM)

02:58:07 Rep. Court

03:00:12 Charles Buss, GSM

03:00:24 Rep. Fitzgerald

03:01:27 Herb Rolfes, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

03:01:52 Rep. Fitzgerald

03:02:00 Herb Rolfes, DEQ

03:02:29 Rep. Z. Brown  
 03:03:22 Herb Rolfes, DEQ  
 03:04:06 Rep. Z. Brown  
 03:04:28 Bruce Farling, MTU  
 03:04:49 Rep. Z. Brown  
 03:05:20 Rep. Curdy  
 03:06:28 David Chambers, CSP<sup>2</sup>  
 03:08:09 Rep. Flynn  
 03:10:48 Herb Rolfes, DEQ  
 03:11:05 Rep. Court  
 03:11:36 Rep. McConnell  
 03:11:43 Rep. Gunderson  
 03:12:40 Tammy Johnson, MMA  
 03:13:22 Rep. Curdy  
 03:13:39 Tammy Johnson, MMA  
 03:14:29 Chair White  
 03:19:38 Chris Dorrington, DEQ  
 03:20:20 Chair White  
 03:20:50 Rep. McConnell

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:20:57 Rep. McConnell

03:22:22 Recess

03:39:58 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 584**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

03:40:30 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 584, Expand state reservation of waters.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

03:43:22 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Irrigators (AGAI); Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC); Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGa)  
 03:46:16 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

03:48:16 Chair White  
 03:50:44 Krista Lee Evans, AGAI; SWRC; MSGA  
 03:50:49 Rep. Z. Brown  
 03:51:23 Rep. Hamlett  
 03:53:55 Rep. Z. Brown  
 03:54:15 Rep. Hamlett  
 03:54:46 Rep. Flynn  
 03:55:02 Rep. Hamlett

03:55:50 Rep. Flynn  
03:56:58 Krista Lee Evans, AGAI; SWRC; MSGA  
03:57:49 Chair White  
03:58:37 Rep. Hamlett  
04:00:22 Rep. Fleming  
04:00:51 Millie Heffner, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

04:01:07 Rep. Hamlett

**Committee Business:**

04:02:20 Chair White

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 04:04:52

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Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nah57aad.pdf](#))